



The

Palmetto Partisan

Official newsmagazine of the South Carolina Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans

Georgetown
camp honors
four Real
Sons & two
daughters.

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Hampton given Medal of Honor Ceremonies held in Confederate Relic Room



Medal of Honor: Gen. Hampton's descendants, Mr. Oliver (on left) and his Sister Mrs. King, receive Medal from Cmt. MacAlhaney, with assistance from Confederate cavalryman. Cmt. Clark is at the lectern.

Columbia - Despite the threat of rain the South Carolina Division met Sunday 27 September in the Confederate Relic Room of the War Memorial Building to commemorate the service of General Wade Hampton, III. The occasion was the presentation of the Confederate Medal of Honor.

The Medal of Honor is conferred for distinguished service above and beyond the call of duty while serving in the Confederate States army or navy. It was presented to Gen. Hampton for his gallantry and bravery while in action with the enemy at the Battle of Gettysburg.

About two hundred re-enactors and guests were present for the ceremony which included the presentation of the medal to Gen. Hampton's descendants. The presentation was done by **Real Son Ernest E. McAlhaney** of Columbia. As is re-

quired, the descendants then presented the award to the Confederate Relic Room where it will be on permanent display.

Wade Hampton was born in Charleston 28 March 1818. He enlisted in Confederate service in April of 1861 and brought with him the HAMPTON LEGION, a micro-army of South Carolinians which he personally equipped and armed. As Confederate manpower was depleted, he became commander of HAMPTON'S CAVALRY CORPS. He served with distinction until the cessation of hostilities in April 1865.

The research and preparation for this award were done by **Ben Boatwright, Tim Bradshaw, R. Brett Bradshaw, E.M. Clark, Wayne Roberts, Neil Kelly, Rusty Rentz, Mike Powell, Neil Rose, and Chairman Dennis Todd.**

Receiving the award on behalf of the Hampton family were two of Gen. Hampton's great-grandchildren, Mary Hampton King and Wade Hampton Oliver. Mr. Oliver praised Gen. Hampton and the SCV in his remarks and also showed the General's sword which had been retained by the family.

Area re-enactors provided an honor guard for the service. Participating were the 2ND SOUTH CAROLINA CAVALRY and the 15TH SOUTH CAROLINA INFANTRY. **Div. Chaplain Terry Rude** lead in the invocation, and the Cmt. Neil Rose read "Ode to Hampton," a dramatic poem. Cmt. Brett Bradshaw recounted Gen. Hampton's battlefield life and his contribution to the Confederate war effort. **Lt. Chris Snelgrove** concluded the program with "Dixie." A light reception was held afterwards.

The event received extensive news coverage in Columbia and Greenville, with TV-7 in Spartanburg providing a long report on the ceremony and Wade Hampton's life.

Two other South Carolinians have been so honored. Last year, Lt. Alexander McQueen of Sumter, and several years ago Lt. Richard Kirkland, "The Angel of Marye's Heights," of Camden were honored.

Georgetown Real Son dies

*John Paul Sessions was
some-kinda old*

Georgetown - Having only recently been honored with four of his brothers and sisters as descendants of a Confederate Veteran, **Real Son John Paul Sessions** died 30 November in Myrtle Beach. Compatriot Sessions succumbed to an extended period of illness. He was a member of the BATTERY WHITE camp.

Other obituaries on page 7. More on the special ceremony on page 3.

Four camps honor veterans

Compatriots presented SCV War Service Medal

Georgetown - Two South Carolina Camps have recently conducted ceremonies to honor Compatriots for their military service. Compatriots who are combat veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States are eligible to receive the War Service Medal.

10 November 14 members of the BATTERY WHITE camp were awarded the Sons of Confederate Veterans War Service Medal. The occasion was a special Veterans Day observance in the Georgetown camp.

Div. Com. Robert Brown was on hand for the presentation. The following Compatriots received the medal for service in WWII; Real Son Jake Strait, J.B. "Bud" Black, Dr. Robert McGrath, Randy Kirkland, and Billy Johnstone. For Korean war service; Bob Glenn and R.J. "Bubba" Ferdon. Vietnam veterans Bill Chandler, Chuck Neuhaus, Bobby Mayer, Thad Barrineau, Paige Sawyer and Booby Ricks received the award, and Dr. Wright Skinner was presented the medal for service in Operation Desert Storm.

The John M. Kinard Camp recognized Cmt. Elzie Turner of Newberry for his service aboard USS Hazelwood

during WWII. The presentation was made during the camp's annual Ladies Night program. E.M. Clark, Midlands Brigade Com., made the presentation.

The Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard camp in Sumter will present one at the December meeting.

The Wade Hampton camp of Columbia held special services at their meeting 19 November. They not only honored Compatriots with the War Service Medal, but also three ladies received the Ladies Service Medal.

The ladies medal is a national award, presented by the Commander-in-Chief, created to show appreciation to those ladies who have assisted the SCV. These awards were issued at the last na-

tional convention by then CIC William D. Hogan. Recipients were Mrs. Belinda Wilkinson, Mrs. Ernestine Todd and Mrs. Joyce Holmes.

The Columbia camp also presented five Compatriots with War Service Medals. Ernest E. McAlhaney, Real Son, WWII; Tim Bradshaw, Vietnam era; Jeff Fuller, Vietnam War; and Dean Hunt and Randy Holmes, Operation Desert Storm.

The medal is available to any Compatriot who served the country during wartime. A similar medal for military service is presented by the UDC. ☒



Award recipients: In the top photo (l to r) are Compatriots: McAlhaney, Bradshaw, Fuller, Hunt and Holmes. In the lower photo (also l to r) are: Mrs. Wilkinson, Mrs. Holmes and Mrs. Todd.

The Palmetto Partisan

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Georgetown honors six Real Sons & Daughters

Special ceremony recognizes five descendants of one veteran

Editors Note: The *Palmetto Partisan* encourages all camps to record all available information about their Real Sons and submit them for publication.

Georgetown - The BATTERY WHITE camp conducted a special ceremony 18 October to honor four Real Sons and three Real Daughters. The ceremony was held at the Silverhook Restaurant in Myrtle Beach. This is the first time in the modern era when five Real Sons and Daughters have been recognized by a single South Carolina SCV camp.

Private John Marion Sessions, born 1845, served in COMPANY B, MANIGAULT'S BATTALION OF ARTILLERY. He was first married to Rhoda Jordan and reared five children, all now deceased. In 1907 Mr. Sessions married Anna Delphia Godbolt, 39 years his junior. Together they reared eight children. Of these, five are still living and were honored by the camp along with **Real Son Jake Strait**.

Cmt. Jake Strait is the son of Thomas Jefferson Strait. Mr. Strait's first wife died in 1914 and he married Ella Roof three years later. Cmt. Jake Strait was born in 1921 when his father was 75.

His father died when Cmt. Strait was only three years old. Nonetheless, remembers many of his father's friends and compatriots who often related stories of his father and their experiences during the War Between the States.

As a boy compatriot Jake Strait can remember many of the stories told by his family and his father's friends. One of them gave him a keppie which he wore faithfully as a child. He shared some of those stories with the *Palmetto Partisan*.

Private Thomas Jefferson Strait first enlisted in the Confederate army in 1862 when he was fifteen. His father rode to Virginia, brought the boy home and thrashed him soundly. A year later he ran off to enlist again and would serve for the duration in COMPANY H, 6TH SOUTH CAROLINA



Real Sons & Daughters: (Left to right). Jake Strait, Cullie Well Sessions, Marion Sessions, Minnie Sessions Chestnut, Abie Sessions Huggins, and (seated) John Paul Sessions.

INFANTRY.

An excellent horseman and rifleman, he was renowned by his compatriots for his ability to forage. On one occasion he and seven others were quietly bivouacked when an unsuspecting squadron of a dozen Yankee cavalymen camped nearby. One of the Confederates carefully untied the Union livestock, and others engaged the surprised enemy causing them to flee for their lives. The Confederates were thus again well supplied by the best procurement system of the war.

Pvt. Strait was wounded three times during the war. At Franklin he took a mini-ball in the left breast, breaking two ribs. The wound would have surely been mortal had the shot

not been interrupted by his copy of the New Testament and a tin-type of his mother. Having been captured by the Yankees, he spent the remainder of the war struggling to survive the POW camp at Elmyra.

After the war, Pvt. Strait gained admittance to the Medical University of South Carolina despite his lack of formal education. Active in the Red Shirts, he served three terms in the State Senate and another three terms in the United States House of Representatives.

Dr. Strait died in Lancaster County in 1924. When Cmt. Strait visited his father's grave a few years back he reports that the iron Southern Cross had been removed. ❖

Disposition of Brigades and camps of the South Carolina Division

The South Carolina Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans is composed of three Brigades and twenty-one camps. The map, reproduced nearby, shows the location of each camp and the boundaries of each brigade. the number beside each camp's name represents the order of their chartering.

Upcountry Brigade

Jack E. Marlar, Commander

1213 Greenpond Rd, Fountain Inn, SC, 29644 (862-3946)

1. 16TH REGIMENT, SOUTH CAROLINA VOLUNTEERS, *Greenville*
6. PALMETTO SHARPSHOOTERS, *Anderson*
7. Gen. States Rights Gist, *Jonesville*
8. Witherspoon-Barnes, *Lancaster*
14. Pvt. Thomas C. Chumley, *Clemson University*
16. Gen. Micah Jenkins, *Rock Hill*
17. 2ND SOUTH CAROLINA REGIMENT, *Pickens*
19. Walker-Gaskins, *Chester*

Midlands Brigade

E.M. Clark, Commander

43 Woodbine Park, 1600 Platt Springs Rd, West Columbia, SC 29619 (794-5289)

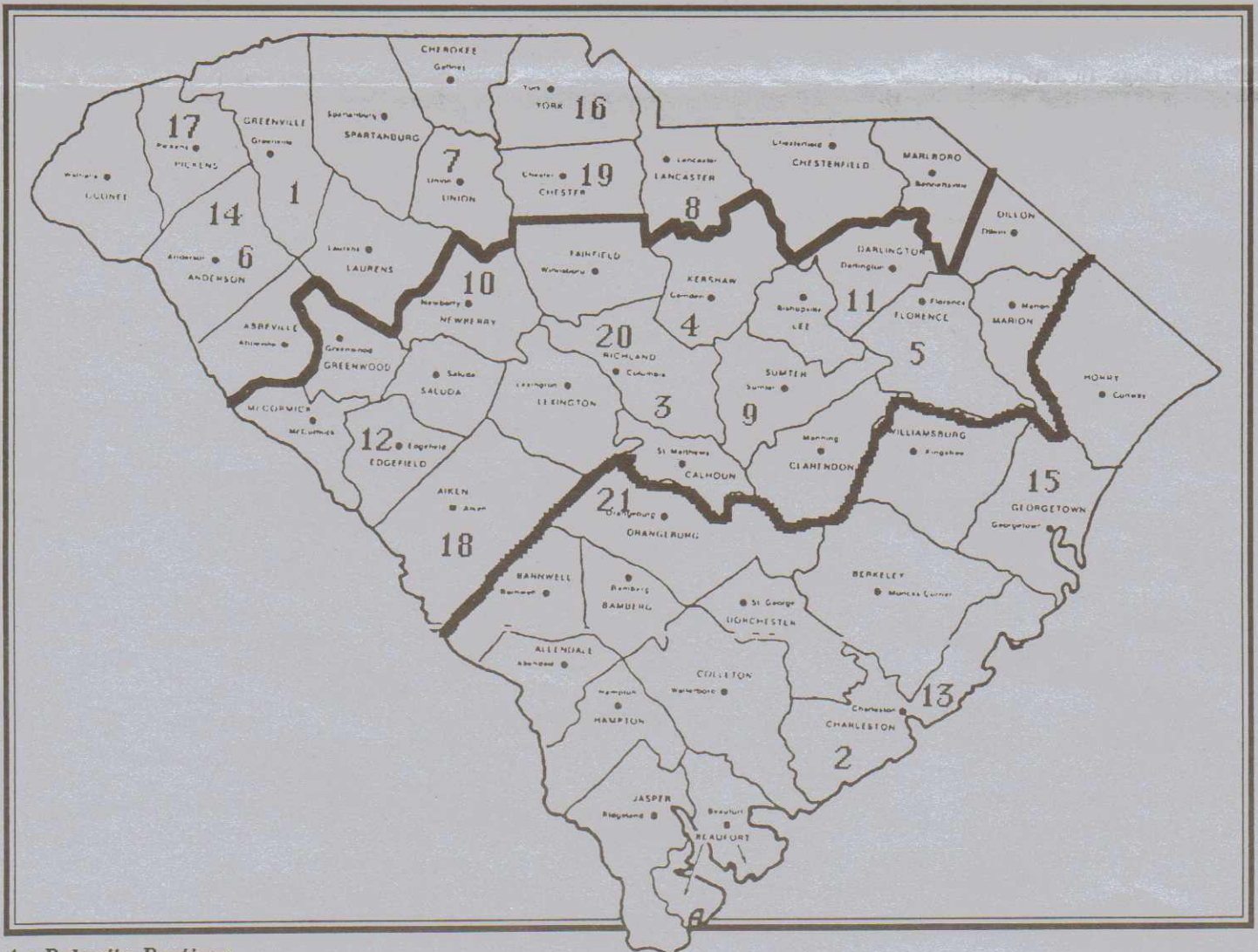
3. Gen. Wade Hampton, *Columbia*
5. PEE DEE RIFLES, *Florence*
4. Joseph B. Kershaw, *Camden*
9. Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard, *Sumter*
10. John M. Kinard, *Newberry*
12. Gen Martin W. Gary, *Edgefield*
18. Brig. Gen. Barnard E. Bee, *Aiken*
20. Congressman Preston Brooks, *Irmo*

Lowcountry Brigade

Paige Sawyer, Commander

416 Highmarket St, Georgetown, SC 29440 (527-2342)

2. Fort Sumter, *Charleston*
13. Secession, *Charleston*
15. BATTERY WHITE, *Georgetown*
21. Col. Olin Dantzler, *Orangeburg*



Flag poll raised

The care and feeding of a state legislator

Columbia - The Confederate flag is once again the salient in the war on Southern culture. USA TODAY reports that certain Alabama legislators will protest the presence of the flag when the state house is reopened this year after renovations. In Georgia, despite overwhelming polls to the contrary Gov. Zell Miller will resume efforts to remake that state flag into a more politically correct banner.

When the South Carolina General Assembly reconvenes 12 January Senator Kay Patterson (D - Columbia) has announced his intentions to, once again, present a resolution to remove the Confederate Battleflag from its position atop the Capitol dome along with the U.S. and Palmetto flags. In anticipation of this action the Division Heritage Committee is distributing a questionnaire to all members of the State House and Senate asking them to commit to a specific position on this issue.

E.M. Clark of Columbia is leading this effort by writing the surveys and mailing them to the legislators. Prior to the legislature's meeting in January the results will be distributed to all camps. Compatriots may then write their legislators and either thank or reprimand them for their position (or, lack thereof). Paige Sawyer of Georgetown is chairman of the Heritage Committee.

Tips on writing your legislator

State Senators and Representatives pay attention to their mail. It is good politics. Most of them get very little of it: on any topic. Two dozen letters on the same subject can represent a landslide to some legislators.

Responding to mail is crucial to reelection. A member knows your vote can be won or lost by their

response. The most effective letter is a personal one, not a form letter. It should be concise, informed and polite. Some specific tips:

✍ Try to stick to one type written page. Two pages at most. Don't write on the back of a page. If writing longhand, take care to write legibly.

✍ In a short first paragraph, state your purpose. Stick with one subject or issue. Support your position with the rest of the letter.

✍ If a bill is the subject, cite it by name and number.

✍ Be factual and support your position with information about how legislation is likely to affect

The suggested forms of address

The Honorable _____,
South Carolina Senate
Post Office Box 142
Columbia, SC 29202

Dear Senator _____,

The Honorable _____,
South Carolina House of Representatives
Post Office Box 11867
Columbia, SC 29211

Dear Representative _____,

you and others. Avoid overly emotional arguments.

✍ If you believe legislation is wrong and should be opposed, say so, indicate the likely adverse effects, and suggest a better approach.

✍ Ask for the legislator's views but do not demand support.

✍ Be sure your name and return address are legible.

You can help shape your approach by knowing something about the legislator you are writing. Refer to the Legislative Manual (available at the library) to determine the committees assignments, interests and background. If you don't know who your representative is contact the county election commission.

If you believe you have something in common, or admire a position or statement of the legislator, even on an

issue unrelated to the subject of your letter, say so. Finally, watch how your member votes and follow up with a note of thanks if he does the right thing.

Adapted from the National Rifle Association. ✕

POW museum planned Andersonville picked for national memorial

Andersonville - Ground has been broken at the site of the Confederate Prisoner of War camp at Andersonville, Georgia for an \$8.5 million, ten-thousand-square-foot interactive museum that will commemorate "prisoners-of-war from all the nation's wars since the Revolution."

Sponsored by the National Park Service, the project is supported by two other groups: American Ex-prisoners of War, and something called the Friends of Andersonville. While the Federal Government is providing the lion's share of the funding these other groups will try to raise \$2.5 million. Construction will not begin until all funding is in hand.

There is no word yet as to whether this site will commemorate those Confederate POW's who suffered and died at the hands of their United States Army captors. If you would like to know more about this project contact; Andersonville National Historic Site, Route 1, Box 85, Andersonville, GA, 31711, 912-924-0343. ✕

Clemson Commemorates Clemson

Clemson - The Pvt. Thomas Chumley camp conducted special honors for Thomas Greene Clemson, Confederate officer and founder of Clemson University.

The camp sponsored the laying of a memorial stone in his honor at the cemetery in town. The color guard of 2ND SOUTH CAROLINA VOLUNTEER INFANTRY of Pickens, and **Brigade Commander Jack E. Marlar** participated. The camp is composed of Clemson University students. ✕

Dixie Digest

News of interest to the Division

New Camps Organized

South Carolina has two new camps. The Congressman Preston Brooks, Camp 1591 has been chartered in Irmo; and the Colonel Olin M. Dantzler, Camp 73 of Orangeburg is being organized primarily by members of the Wade Hampton Camp in Columbia. They have made application and should be chartered soon.

Despite a loss of 85 for non-renewal, Division strength now stands at 825 men in twenty-one camps which is unprecedented in the modern era.

Elm Springs Funding

The Division funding plan for Elm Springs, as formulated at the last state convention, is a voluntary system of individual contributions. Each member will be requested to donate \$1 per month toward the start-up and operating costs of the HQ. Elm Springs is the SCV's newly acquired General Headquarters in Columbia, Tennessee.

Chief-of-Staff J.J. Fox said, "This project is voluntary, but it is necessary until the headquarters is established and a budget experience can be developed." The Division project officer is **Cmt. James L. Speicher**.

Checks may be payable to the local camp, whose Adjutant will then forward a camp check to Cmt. Speicher, or they may be sent directly to Cmt. Speicher to the order of National Headquarters Fund, 8514 Wynnfield Dr., Charleston, SC, 29420.

New HQ Address

As of 1 December 1992 all communications and correspondence with the national SCV should be directed to, General Headquarters, Sons of Confederate Veterans, POB 59, Columbia, TN, 38402-0059.

Greenville Hosts Dinner

The SIXTEENTH REGIMENT, SOUTH CAROLINA VOLUNTEERS will host their annual "An Evening With..." dinner. This year's event will feature the 8TH REGIMENT BAND, GEORGIA VOLUNTEER INFANTRY, and Dr. Carl Vippering.

The dinner will be held in the ballroom of the Hyatt hotel in downtown Greenville, and all Compatriots are encouraged to attend. The Hyatt offers a special rate for attendees (800-233-1234).

The band will

provide authentic period music for dancing, and Dr. Vippering, a professor of history at the University of Georgia, will discuss his recent book on the causes of the war. The cost is \$30. Contact Tom Whitehurst by 11 Dec; 11 Roberta Dr., Greenville, SC, 29615.

Aiken Plans Lee & Jackson Dinner

The Gen. Bernard E. Bee Camp of Aiken plans a dinner in honor of Generals Lee & Jackson in January. The cost of the event is \$20. Reservations may be made with John Johnson (648-5132).

Sea Grant Consortium

The South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium's 11th annual winter conference will be 4 Dec at the Charleston

Museum.

Of interest to members of the Division might be the afternoon seminar on "The contributions of historic preservation to a community's economy."

The seminars are free and open to the public. The consortium is a state agency. Contact 727-2078.

Help Wanted

The *Palmetto Partisan* needs reporters, photographers and writers. No experience necessary. Respond to address below left. ✕

What is the SCV?

The Sons of Confederate Veterans is the association of male descendants of the men who served in the army or navy of the Confederate States of America. Its purpose is historical and educational.

For more information contact:
SCV

POB 10105

GREENVILLE, SC 29603-0105

or call toll free:

(800) 359-9000 Ext. 509

Confederate Calendar

* denotes events sponsored by the PALMETTO BATTALION

28 November	Oakley Park Lantern Tour; Edgefield
19 December	"An Evening With..." dinner; Greenville
19 January	Georgia Flag Rally; State Capitol
26-28 March	S.C. Division Convention; Folly Beach Holiday Inn,
August 1993	SCV General Reunion; Lexington, Kentucky
August 1996	Centennial SCV General Reunion; Richmond, Virginia

The Palmetto Partisan

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